

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim1 (currently amended) A stabilized phenolic resole resin composition useful for preparing phenolic urethane binders comprising consisting essentially of a phenolic resole resin and an effective stabilizing amount of an-ortho-ester an ortho ester is selected from the group consisting of triethyl orthoformate, trimethyl orthoformate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim2 (original) The stabilized phenolic resole resin composition of claim 1 which also contains a solvent selected from the group consisting of aromatic ~~hydrocarbon~~ solvents, ~~ester solvents~~, polar solvents, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (original) The stabilized phenolic resole resin composition of claim 2 wherein the stabilized phenolic resole resin composition comprises a polybenzylic ether phenolic resin prepared by reacting an aldehyde with a phenol such that the molar ratio of aldehyde to phenol is from 1.1:1 to 3:1 in the presence of a divalent metal catalyst.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The stabilized phenolic resole resin composition of claim 3 wherein the phenol used to prepare the phenolic resole resin of the stabilized phenolic resole resin composition is ~~selected from the group consisting of phenol, bisphenol, o-cresol, p-cresol, and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 5 (original) The stabilized phenolic resole resin composition of claim 4 wherein the aldehyde used to prepare the phenolic resin of the stabilized phenolic resole resin composition is formaldehyde.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended) The stabilized phenolic resole resin composition of claim 6 5 wherein the amount of solvent in the resin composition is from 20 weight percent to 80 weight percent based upon the weight of the phenolic resin composition.

Claim 8 (original) The stabilized phenolic resole resin composition of claim 7 wherein the amount of ortho ester is from about 0.1 weight percent to about 1.5 weight percent based upon the weight of the phenolic resin.

Claim 9 (original) The stabilized phenolic resole resin composition of claim 6 wherein the phenolic resole resin of the stabilized phenolic resole resin composition is an alkoxy-modified benzylic ether phenolic resole resin and the catalyst used to prepare said resin is a divalent zinc salt.

Claim10 (original) A foundry binder system comprising the phenolic resole resin component of ~~claim~~ claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 and a polyisocyanate component.

Claims11-16 (canceled)